

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A browser apparatus comprising:

information acquisition means for acquiring homepage data;

5 display means for displaying information;

shift direction input means for inputting a shift direction;

command input means for inputting a command; and

control means for displaying the homepage data acquired  
10 by said information acquisition means on said display means in response to a shift command indicating a shift direction input by said shift direction input means and to an operation command indicating an operation input by said command input means, wherein

15 said control means has a plurality of operation modes, and assigns different functions to said shift direction input means and said command input means in each of the plurality of operation modes as functions of manipulating the homepage displayed on said display means.

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2. The browser apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means switches the plurality of operation modes in response to the shift command from said shift direction input means or to the operation command from said command input means.

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3. The browser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of operation modes includes:

a menu mode of selecting a menu item from a menu displayed on said display means in response to the shift command from said  
30 shift direction input means;

a surf mode of selecting part of the homepage by moving a mouse cursor displayed on said display means in response to the shift command from said shift direction input means; and

5 a scrolling mode of scrolling the homepage displayed on said display means in vertical and horizontal directions in response to the shift command from said shift direction input means.

4. The browser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said  
10 shift direction input means comprises a cross key for outputting four types of shift commands by manipulating the cross key in four directions, top, bottom, left and right directions.

5. The browser apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said  
15 command input means comprises an enter key for starting processing, and a back key for making transition of the operation mode.